

Pathenos her hero, and wishes she might one day, "posses a fraction of his bravery and discipline."

As the father of two Marines, one of whom has served in Iraq; it is a privilege to stand here today to honor one of our fallen soldiers. Matthew's commitment and dedication to his country is a shining example of how our military men and women are the finest our nation has to offer. His and his family's sacrifice should serve as a reminder to all that the freedom we enjoy as Americans is not free but the result of the tremendous bravery and selfless service of men and women willing put themselves in harms way for freedom's cause.

Our nation will be forever indebted to Lance Corporal Matthew Pathenos.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Lance Corporal Matthew Pathenos.

Vote "yes" on H.R. 1216.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLAY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1216.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION EXTENSION

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1541) to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1541

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the Act entitled "An Act to extend temporarily certain authorities of the Small Business Administration", approved October 10, 2006 (Public Law 109-316; 120 Stat. 1742), as most recently amended by section 1 of Public Law 110-235 (122 Stat. 1552), is amended by striking "March 20, 2009" in each place it appears and inserting "July 31, 2009".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on March 19, 2009.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

As our Nation responds to the current economic downturn, small businesses will be central to our recovery. They are the engine of our economy, producing 60 to 80 percent of new jobs, and their role is even more important during recessions.

The fact is, when the job market is tight, many Americans venture out, launch their own enterprises. Following the recession of the early 1990s, small firms generated 3.8 million new positions for American workers, a number that surpassed big business expansion by almost half a million.

That kind of resilience, in the face of economic uncertainty, is a testament to the strength of our Nation. Times may be tough, but the American entrepreneurial spirit is tougher. Today, the House is considering legislation that will extend programs at the Small Business Administration into July.

These programs play a pivotal role in our economy. The SBA guarantees loans that allow new ventures to start and existing firms to grow. It provides counseling and technical know-how to entrepreneurs, and it helps ensure that small firms can obtain their fair share of Federal contracts, something that will be more important as the Economic Recovery Act generates \$111 billion worth of new public works projects.

Extending these programs is important, but we must not lose sight of a larger goal. Later this Congress we will pass legislation to modernize the SBA and change the agency's culture. In these difficult economic times, we will need an SBA that can respond effectively. This will require extensive reforms.

Already in this Congress we passed the most significant update to the agency in a decade. With the economic recovery legislation, we made SBA bank loans more affordable for entrepreneurs. We increased the amount of a loan that the SBA can back, further opening up affordable credit for small business owners.

We established a new Small Business Stabilization Financing Program at the SBA, which will provide short-term loans to businesses struggling to meet their existing obligations. We gave the SBA tools it needs to begin unfreezing the secondary market for small business loans.

□ 1430

By reforming and updating the Small Business Investment Company pro-

gram, we help channel new venture capital to small firms.

Taken together, all of these initiatives will yield \$21 billion in new investment and lending for small businesses and save or create 600,000 new jobs.

Earlier this week, President Obama moved to implement many of these changes. I applaud the administration for working quickly. However, this is just the start.

Later this year, the committee will draft a comprehensive rewrite of the SBA. If there has ever been a time for a strong, effective SBA, that time is now. It will be the responsibility of every Member in this House to make sure that we reauthorize these programs properly so the SBA can help Main Street businesses weather this recession and contribute to our economy.

The extension we are voting on today will give us the time to hear from all our colleagues and interested parties as we develop this legislation. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the chairwoman's request to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1541. The bill is very simple. It extends the authorization of all programs operated or authorized by the Small Business Act, the Small Business Investment Act, and any program by the Small Business Administration for which Congress has already appropriated funds. The extension will last until July 31 of this year.

This extension is necessary because the authorization for various programs operated by the SBA ceases on March 20. The Committee has worked in a bipartisan fashion in the last Congress, and we reported out a number of bills to address programs operated by the SBA. Despite the efforts of the House, time in the last Congress expired before the legislative process could run its course.

The work needed to help America's entrepreneurs revitalize the economy simply can't be accomplished by Friday of this week.

Without the enactment of this extension, a number of vital programs that the SBA operates will cease to function. Given the importance that small businesses play, and will continue to play in the revitalization of the American economy, we cannot allow the SBA authorizations to run out.

Enactment of this extension will enable the House and Senate to work in a diligent manner to address the necessary changes to SBA programs. I urge all of my colleagues to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1541.

I reserve the balance of my time.

VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU).

Mr. WU. Thank you, Madam Chair, and thank you, Mr. Speaker. As President Obama said recently, "small businesses are the heart of the American

economy.” They are responsible for half of all private-sector jobs, and they’ve created about 70 percent of all new jobs in the past 10 years.

We need to build our economy from the ground up, create stable jobs, and foster innovation that will lead to long-term growth. To do this, we need to support the small high-tech companies that grow our economy.

The Federal Government supports these innovative small businesses through the Small Business Innovative Research program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program, which help companies commercialize Federally funded research. The programs now distribute more than \$2.5 billion each year and constitute the largest tech-transfer commercialization programs that we have in the Federal Government.

However, these programs must be updated to reflect the current innovation environment. Award sizes should be increased to reflect inflation and the growth of operating costs; the issue of venture capital participation needs to be resolved; flexibility must be instilled between phase one and phase two grants; and data collection needs to be improved so that we can better target the program and determine its effectiveness.

Last year, the House overwhelmingly passed H.R. 5819, which made these necessary changes based on suggestions from hearings in my Technology and Innovation Subcommittee and in conjunction with our work with Chairwoman VELÁZQUEZ and Ranking Member GRAVES. However, good legislation, once again, died in the other Chamber.

Today, we find the House needing to pass an extension to keep these programs alive. This extension is necessary because the SBA and SBIR serve important purposes. But, moving forward, if we are to continue realizing the full value of programs like SBIR, we must reauthorize them with changes that reflect the evolving innovation environment, rather than simply extending the current authorization. It must be an innovation program as well as a jobs and small business program.

At a time when credit is tight and jobs are scarce, SBIR and STTR can have a significant role in jump-starting our economy. The House and Senate need to pass legislation this year that will reauthorize these programs, innovate new products and services, support small businesses, and create well-paying jobs for decades to come.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1541.

The Small Business Administration (SBA) was created in 1953, and has a current business loan portfolio of roughly 220,000 loans worth more than \$50 billion, which makes it the largest single financial backer of U.S. businesses. My district is home to these businesses, many of which are struggling to hang tough in this trying economy.

In the 110th Congress, several short-term SBA authorization measures were enacted;

the latest was signed into law on May 23, 2008. Under that law, authorization for SBA programs is scheduled to expire on March 20. I am hopeful that President Obama continues the recognition and support for small businesses that he demonstrated yesterday. His leadership, along with that of my colleague NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ on these issues could not come at a more important time.

Small business is frequently viewed as an incubator for employment and economic growth, and is a continuing legislative and oversight concern for Congress due to its constitutional role, through the interstate commerce and general welfare clauses, to promote economic well being and prosperity.

While many analysts believe a very significant percentage of the nation’s jobs are created by small businesses, others note that a great many small businesses fail every year thereby eliminating jobs.

The 111th Congress is likely to consider many small business issues as it debates reauthorization the many Small Business Administration (SBA) programs that are scheduled to expire in 2009. Our small business owners need certainty to plan for the future and I will continue to work hard for a more permanent solution to complement the authorizations that many businesses have to endure.

A primary issue in the reauthorization is likely to be the cost to the government of various small business assistance programs. The Bush Administration had proposed that certain loan programs be cut back or eliminated, that borrowers in the SBA’s basic loan program be charged higher fees, and that interest rates for disaster loans rise to market levels after five years. I hope that a full review of these policies is underway by the new administration.

Ways to insure that small businesses benefit from economic stimulus programs are likely to be considered. Finding ways for small businesses to provide health insurance to employees could be vital in getting elements of the business community to be actively supporting and working with Congress as we press ahead with legislation on health care. I understand that we in Congress cannot run your businesses for you. I just want to be there to help fashion fair and reasonable legislation that affects small business.

Mr. Speaker, this bill authorizes Small Business Administration programs and authority through July 31 and again it is my hope that we continue to engage the business community as this Congress seeks to move America from recession back to prosperity.

Mr. GRAVES. I would, again, urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1541.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask for a “yes” vote.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1541.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

House Resolution 240, by the yeas and nays;

House Resolution 211, de novo; and

H.R. 628, de novo.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes. Remaining votes on outstanding postponed motions to suspend the rules will be taken later.

SUPPORTING PROFESSIONAL SOCIAL WORK MONTH AND WORLD SOCIAL WORK DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 240, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. POLIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 240, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 421, nays 0, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 128]

YEAS—421

Ackerman	Bright	Courtney
Aderholt	Broun (GA)	Crenshaw
Adler (NJ)	Brown (SC)	Crowley
Akin	Brown, Corrine	Cuellar
Alexander	Brown-Waite,	Culberson
Altmire	Ginny	Cummings
Andrews	Buchanan	Dahlkemper
Arcuri	Burgess	Davis (AL)
Austria	Burton (IN)	Davis (CA)
Baca	Butterfield	Davis (IL)
Bachmann	Buyer	Davis (KY)
Bachus	Calvert	Davis (TN)
Baird	Camp	Deal (GA)
Baldwin	Campbell	DeFazio
Barrett (SC)	Cantor	DeGette
Barrow	Cao	Delahunt
Bartlett	Capito	DeLauro
Barton (TX)	Capps	Dent
Bean	Capuano	Diaz-Balart, L.
Becerra	Cardoza	Diaz-Balart, M.
Berkley	Carnahan	Dicks
Berman	Carney	Dingell
Berry	Carson (IN)	Doggett
Biggert	Carter	Donnelly (IN)
Bilbray	Cassidy	Doyle
Bilirakis	Castle	Driehaus
Bishop (GA)	Castor (FL)	Duncan
Bishop (NY)	Chaffetz	Edwards (MD)
Bishop (UT)	Chandler	Edwards (TX)
Blackburn	Childers	Ehlers
Blumenauer	Clarke	Ellison
Blunt	Clay	Ellsworth
Boccheri	Cleaver	Emerson
Boehner	Clyburn	Engel
Bonner	Coble	Eshoo
Bono Mack	Coffman (CO)	Etheridge
Boozman	Cohen	Fallin
Boren	Cole	Farr
Boswell	Conaway	Fattah
Boucher	Connolly (VA)	Filner
Boyd	Conyers	Flake
Brady (PA)	Cooper	Fleming
Brady (TX)	Costa	Forbes
Braley (IA)	Costello	Fortenberry